

What is claimed is:

1. An improved shopping cart for use at a store including a checkout stand having a surface at a height C for receiving shopping items, comprising: a shopping cart frame supported by a plurality of wheels for rolling the shopping cart around the store, a removable shopping cart basket supported by the shopping cart frame and including a bottom located at a height H that is above a height C of the surface of the checkout stand for receiving shopping items.
2. The improved shopping cart of claim 1, wherein the frame includes a support surface to support the removable basket at the height H.
3. The improved shopping cart of claim 2, wherein the removable basket includes a distal portion and the support surface of the frame includes a distal end, and the distal portion of the removable basket overhangs the distal end of the support surface of the frame.
4. The improved shopping cart of claim 2, further including one or more support structures in addition to the support surface.
5. The improved shopping cart of claim 2, further including a sliding mechanism to facilitate sliding movement of the removable basket onto the surface of the checkout stand for receiving shopping items.
6. The improved shopping cart of claim 1, further including a disengageable holding mechanism to hold the removable basket to the frame.
7. The improved shopping cart of claim 1, further including a locking mechanism to lock the removable basket to the frame.

8. A method of using an improved shopping cart at a store including a checkout stand having a surface at a height C for receiving shopping items, the method comprising:

providing an improved shopping cart including a shopping cart frame supported by  
5 a plurality of wheels for rolling the shopping cart around the store, a removable shopping cart basket supported by the shopping cart frame and including a bottom located at a height H that is above the height C of the surface of the checkout stand for receiving shopping items;

sliding the shopping cart basket from the shopping cart frame down onto the  
10 surface of the checkout stand for receiving shopping items.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the frame includes a support surface to support the removable basket at the height H.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the removable basket includes a distal portion and the support surface of the frame includes a distal end, and the distal portion  
15 of the removable basket overhangs the distal end of the support surface of the frame, and providing an improved shopping cart includes pushing the improved shopping cart up to the checkout stand so that the distal portion of the removable basket overhangs the surface for receiving shopping items.

11. The method of claim 9, further including one or more support structures in  
20 addition to the support surface.

12. The method of claim 8, further including a sliding mechanism to facilitate sliding movement of the removable basket onto the surface of the checkout stand for receiving shopping items.

13. The method of claim 8, further including a disengageable holding mechanism to hold the removable basket to the frame.

14. The method of claim 8, further including a locking mechanism to lock the removable basket to the frame.